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TAGS: PHUM PREL KTIP MU

SUBJECT: First TIP Prosecution in Oman

CLASSIFIED BY: L. Victor Hurtado, Charge d'Affaires, Department of State, Embassy Muscat; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (U) The government of Oman has brought charges in the first trafficking in persons (TIP) court case under its new anti-TIP law. The case was summarily announced in local press on March 2; additional information was made available on March 16. According to local news reports, young women who came to Oman to work as waitresses, beauticians or nannies were approached by a man who recruited them into his prostitution ring. The reports indicate that the primary offender is an "Arab national" and that there are Omanis among the accused. At least one of the charged Omanis falls within the "public servant" clause in Oman's anti-TIP legislation, which carries more severe penalties.

¶2. (C) Comment: Post believes this case involves several Arab women, mostly Moroccan, who entered Oman on work visas and were later lured into prostitution by an Egyptian national. This case is significant not only because it is the first court action under Oman's anti-TIP legislation, but because the government has shown the will to press charges against its own citizens. End Comment.
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